



PHOSGENE OXIME (CX)

Agent Overview:

Phosgene oxime (CX or dichloroformoxime) is an urticant or nettle agent, producing an intense itching and a rash similar to hives. Below 95°F, it is a colorless solid. Above 95°F, it is a yellowish-brown liquid with a peppery or pungent odor. Vapor and liquid exposure damages tissue on contact. Exposure to CX solid produces rapid and severe symptoms: unbearable pain in exposed skin and eyes; difficulty with sight or blindness after ocular exposure; and sore throat, hoarseness, dyspnea, chest pain and cough after respiratory exposure. Prolonged effects include skin blanching with an erythematous ring, wheals, brown pigmentation, conjunctivitis, eschar formation, sloughing, lacrimation, lid edema and blepharospasm. Severe exposures irritate mucous membranes and can cause keratitis, iritis, corneal perforation and blindness; pulmonary edema, rales, wheezing, pulmonary thromboses; and inflammatory and hemorrhagic changes.

Lab Specimen Submittal:

Authorization by Dr. Jane Getchell, Director DPHL; Christina Pleasanton, Deputy Director DPHL; or Tara Lydick, Chemical Terrorism Coordinator.

Type of Specimens

Urine: 25mL-50mL screw-cap container

Necessary for Testing:

Whole blood:

- Three, 5 or 7 mL purple-top (EDTA) tubes (vacuum fill only) AND
- One, 5 or 7 mL gray-top or green-top (vacuum fill only) AND
- Two empty urine cups and two empty blood tubes for each lot # submitted.

Packaging Instructions:

Urine: freeze specimen upon collection and ship on dry ice; label specimens and package individually; wrap with absorbent material.

Whole blood: place filled tubes in a shipping rack for stability, wrap the tubes in absorbent material, and secure with tape. Place the packaged tubes in a secondary unbreakable container. Specimens may be shipped cold but *must not* be frozen.

All: wrap sample containers and layers with tamper-proof, waterproof forensic evidence tape initialed by collector, being careful not to cover the sample labels. Ship to DPHL as Biological Substance, Category B (Packing Instruction 650).

Receiving Specimens at DPHL:

Authorized specimens are received at the lab's rear (loading dock) entrance. Submitters must present ID and complete proper forms.

Handling of Specimens:

Follow chain of custody procedures. Freeze urine specimens.

Reporting Results:

Reference laboratory will notify DPHL as soon as possible. The Potential Exposure Call Log and Information form will provide information for notification of testing results outside of the DPHL.

Contact Information:

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